

City of Milwaukie
Milwaukie Park and Recreation Board (PARB)
MEETING MINUTES
City Hall Conference Room
September 22, 2015

Members Present: Lisa Gunion-Rinker (Chair), Lisa Lashbrook (Vice Chair), Lynn Sharp (Treasurer), Erin Willett Holcomb (Secretary), Ben Johnson, Linda Blue, and Andrew Craig

Staff/Visitors: Mitch Nieman (City Staff Liaison), Jeroen Kok (NCPRD Liaison), and Amy Aschenbrenner (City Staff)

1) Welcome and Introductions

Chair Gunion-Rinker called the meeting to order and began the introductions. The three new PARB members Ben Johnson, Linda Blue, and Andrew Craig spoke briefly about themselves.

2) Review & Approve July 2015 Minutes

Chair Gunion-Rinker asked if members had a chance to read and review the July meeting minutes. She would send a few minor corrections to **Mr. Nieman**. **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook** moved to approve the minutes, **Member Blue** seconded; motion passed unanimously.

The group decided to move agenda item #3, Tree City USA/Tree Ordinance Update, to later in the meeting, in order to allow **Mr. Nieman** to print out copies of the latest ordinance.

3) Riverfront Task Force Interim Tree Planting Update

Chair Gunion-Rinker discussed the Riverfront Task Force (RTF) meeting on September 21st, noting that many PARB members attended the meeting.

The group briefed the new members about the ongoing geese problem at Riverfront Park.

Chair Gunion-Rinker reported that there was an agreement on everything except the plantings, that there were still hesitations about mitigation plantings.

The group discussed ideas for the plantings, which organizations to ask for advice, the budget involved, and the unique situation and layout of the park.

Chair Gunion-Rinker reported that the use of dogs, lasers, flight control (which NCPRD would apply), and egg depredation techniques were all agreed upon during the RTF meeting.

Mr. Nieman explained that the timeframe for those techniques would be sometime in the fall once the grass became greener; there would be a contract with Geese Guys at that time. Whereas the plantings would take place later, so there was time to work through the concerns and find the best solutions.

Member Blue had concerns about the flight control. **Mr. Kok** explained the details and that NCPRD would apply it on a trial basis.

The group discussed the creation of a subcommittee regarding the plantings, in order to create a management plan, list of priorities, etc. **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook**, **Treasurer Sharp**, **Member Blue**, and **Member Johnson** volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

4) Formation of Park Foundation – 501(c)(3)

Chair Gunion-Rinker explained that in their discussions about how to fund new parks and maintain existing parks, the idea of forming a nonprofit 501(c)(3) had not come up. With a 501(c)(3), she explained, donations could be received from citizens and business that could be allocated differently. She clarified that the creation of a 501(c)(3) would be in addition to a friends group.

Secretary Willett Holcomb added that she has helped form a 501(c)(3) before and was happy to help. She explained the basics and remarked that it was not too difficult.

Mr. Kok added that NCPRD used to have a foundation, so they would have interest in something being rejuvenated.

Secretary Willett Holcomb asked if a 501(c)(3) would naturally grow out of a friends group. She noted that the friends group's first endeavor could be to launch at 501(c)(3), rather than to have the effort be put in two different directions at once while hoping that they would be cohesive.

Mr. Nieman said he would add discussion of a friends group to the next PARB meeting agenda. He added that the Friends of the Ledding Library group may be a good model.

5) Tree City USA/Tree Ordinance Update

Mr. Nieman printed out the most recent iteration of the tree ordinance with comments, and explained the background of this process for the new members.

Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook explained the four Tree City USA requirements. She discussed that when PARB took the Tree Ordinance to the City Council, the Mayor wondered about the public lands in terms of agencies like ODOT and if they were bound by the a city's ordinance. Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook and Treasurer Sharp researched different cities and Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook understood that state agencies could do what they want with their land.

Member Craig was curious if there was protection of trees in the development. He discussed the importance to have some sort of tree ordinance regarding private property.

Mr. Nieman said he would look in the city's building code for any tree protections currently in place.

Treasurer Sharp gave background on the previous private land initiative and the reaction from the public which had now prompted PARB to take small steps and start with public lands. She also mentioned an idea to make appropriate urban trees available at low cost to the public.

The group discussed changes to be made to the tree ordinance draft. A tree ordinance subcommittee was formed consisting of **Chair Gunion-Rinker, Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook, Treasurer Sharp,** and **Member Craig**. PARB would have two weeks to look over the latest draft and send comments to **Treasurer Sharp**. The subcommittee would check in via conference call on October 6th from 2:30-3:30 and work through the comments.

The group talked about the importance of education and information available to the public regarding who to contact about trees. They also discussed how to communicate the final ordinance to the public.

Mr. Nieman explained the next steps to ultimately have the ordinance adopted by council.

Chair Gunion-Rinker wondered if delaying the tree ordinance would hamper them fiscally; regarding the plantings they have recently completed.

Treasurer Sharp said she would ask the department of forestry and look on the Tree City USA website to find out which fiscal year the requirements follows— the city's fiscal year or a different timeframe.

6) Member News/Reports

Chair Gunion-Rinker reported that 65-70 people turned out for the sustainability tour. She discussed how to make it better next year, and noted that feedback was positive.

Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook discussed the need to program Riverfront Park now and start creating a hub of activity. The group agreed.

Mr. Kok reported that Spring Park was underway with construction, with the relocating of a trail and working on habitat restoration. He also reported that the Three Park Master Plans made it through Planning Commission. Therefore, there was a work session with City Council scheduled on October 6th to highlight any issues or concerns, and then a hearing with Council on October 20th. Finally, he added that the bike pedestrian landing on Kellogg Bridge was also underway with construction.

Mr. Nieman reported that the City has taken on an initiative for no smoking on City-owned facilities and parks. The City is working with representatives from the County Department of Public Health, who is currently doing a survey in Scott Park, Clackamas Park, Dogwood Park, Riverfront Park, and at City Hall's sculpture garden.

Secretary Willett Holcomb reported that she would be unable to attend next month's meeting.

Member Johnson asked if PARB could schedule a group tour of all the City's parks, and the group discussed the possibility of coordinating such an event.

Mr. Nieman reported that Councilor Parks was appointed the primary representative to the NCPRD District Advisory Board, with Councilor Batey as the alternate. The group discussed the need to have regular updates from the regional board.

7) Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by **Vice Chair Lisa Lashbrook**, with a second by **Member Craig**. Motion passed unanimously, meeting adjourned 8:56am.